

Nadav S. Berman, PhD

Curriculum Vitae

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1. Academic Education and Appointments

- 2021-2023 Postdoctoral fellow, Kreitman School for Advanced Research Studies (at the Goldstein-Goren Department of Jewish Thought), Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (BGU). Research topic: “Interestedness and Agape in Jewish Thought”. Adviser: Prof. Daniel J. Lasker
- Oct 2020 - Jan 2022 Research assistant to Prof. Oded Yisraeli in compiling Nahmanides’s writings (see section 4.3 below)
- 2020-2023 Research fellow, Faculty of Law, University of Haifa
- 2020-2021 Visiting scholar, Institute of Jewish Law, Faculty of Law, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, advised by Prof. Benjamin (Benny) Porat
- 2020-2021 Adjunct lecturer, The Feinberg Graduate School, Weizmann Institute of Science
- 2019—2020 Fellow, Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University
Adjunct lecturer, the Jewish Theological Seminary of America
- 2017—2019 Post-graduate and Post-Doctoral Fellow, Judaic Studies Program and the Department of Philosophy, Yale University (Adviser: Prof. Paul W. Franks)
- 2011—2018 PhD studies at the Department of Jewish Thought, *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*. Dissertation title: “20th Century Jewish Thought and Classical American Pragmatism: New Perspectives on Hayyim Hirschensohn, Mordecai M. Kaplan, and Eliezer Berkovits” (in Hebrew, approved Sept. 2018). Adviser: Prof. Avinoam Rosenak
- 2012—2016 Fellow at the advanced Beit-Midrash for Graduate students, *The Shalom Hartman Institute*, Jerusalem
- 2004—2006 MA (magna cum laude), Department of Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University, as part of “Revivim” (Jewish Studies Teachers Training Honors Program). MA thesis “‘If so, there would be no end to the matter’ as Halakhic Argument in Rabbinic Texts” [in Heb.]. Adviser: Prof. Moshe Halbertal
- 2004—2005 Fellow at the Beit Midrash of the ‘Rabbis for Human Rights’ organization, The Hebrew University

- 2001—2003 BA in Bible and Judaism, as a part of the “Revivim” program, The Hebrew University
- 1996—1997 Talmud and Jewish studies at *Yeshivat haKibbutz haDati* at Ma’aleh-Gilbo’a (prior to a full military service as a Tank commander in Division 7)

2. Research Awards and Fellowships

- 2022—2025 Grant received from the ISF (no. 1077/22) for a collaborative research-project with Prof. Tal Z. Zarsky on “The Codability of Decision-Making: Between Law, Algorithmic Coding, and Jewish Thought”
- 2021—2023 Postdoctoral fellow, Kreitman School for Advanced Research Studies, BGU
- 2019—2020 Visiting Fellow, Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University
- 2017—2019 Two Year Postdoctoral Fellowship, Yale University
- 2015—2016 Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture Grant
Goldman Prize, Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, The Hebrew University
Hartman Institute Beit-Midrash Fellowship
- 2014—2015 Hartman Institute Beit-Midrash Fellowship
- 2013—2014 Aryeh Lubin Grant, The Faculty of Humanities
Anny Garib Aboulker Scholarship, Faculty of Humanities
Matanel Fund Scholarship
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies Grant, The Hebrew University
Hartman Institute Beit-Midrash Fellowship
- 2012—2013 Matanel Fund Scholarship
William Lakritz Fund Prize (in honor of Martin Buber)
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies Grant, The Hebrew University
Hartman Institute Beit-Midrash Fellowship
- 2011—2012 Department of American Studies Scholarship (Annenberg Fund)
Swiss-Israel Philosophy Scholarship (via JNF)
William Lakritz Fund Prize
Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies Grant, The Hebrew University
- 2002—2005 Full Studies Scholarship, the “Revivim” Program

3. Academic (Peer-reviewed) Publications

3.1. Academic Articles

- i. “The Application of the ‘Pragmatic Maxim’ in Jewish Tradition: The Case of R. Ḥayyim Hirschensohn”, forthcoming in *The Journal of Religion*

- ii. With Tal Z. Zarsky, “What is the Juxtaposition Between Silicon Valley and Mount Sinai? Covenantal Principles and the Conceptualization of Platform-User Relations”, *Journal of Law and Religion* 37:3 (2022): 446-477
- iii. “Peculiarly Interesting Disinterestedness: A Pragmatist Reading of Mishnah Avot 5:16”, *Journal of Jewish Ethics* 8:1 (2022): 42-86
- iv. With Joseph (Yossi) Turner, “Franz Rosenzweig’s Concept of Redemption as a Vehicle for Confronting the Philosophical Problematic of Contemporary Transhumanism”, *Nabaraim* 16:1 (2022): 1-24
- v. “Jewish Law, Techno-Ethics, and Autonomous Weapon Systems: Ethical-Halakhic Perspectives”, *Jewish Law Association Studies* XXIX (2020): 91-124
- vi. “The Rejection of Radical Foundationalism and Skepticism: Pragmatic Belief in God in Eliezer Berkovits’s Thought” [in Heb.], *Jewish Thought* 1 (2019): 201-46
- vii. “Pragmatism and Jewish Thought: Eliezer Berkovits’s Philosophy of Halakhic Fallibility”, *Journal of Jewish Thought & Philosophy* 27:1 (2019): 86-135
- viii. “The Challenge of the Caring God: A. J. Heschel’s ‘Theology of Pathos’ in Light of Eliezer Berkovits’ Critique” [in Heb.], *Zebuyot* 8 (2017): 43-60
- ix. “R. Ḥayyim Hirschensohn’s Beliefs about Death and Immortality as Tested by his Halakhic Decision Making” [in Heb.], *DAAT* 83 (2017): 337-59

3.2. Refereed Book Chapters

- x. “Interest, Disinterestedness, and Pragmatic Interestedness: Jewish Contributions to the Search for a Moral Economic Vision”, *The Spirit of Conscious Capitalism: Contributions of World Religions and Spiritualities*, ed. Moses Pava and Michel Dion, (Switzerland: Springer 2022), 85-108
- xi. “Zionism as Holistic Idea: Mordecai M. Kaplan’s Pragmatic Approach” [in Heb.], forthcoming in the volume *Zion and Diaspora: Past, Present, Future*, ed. Joseph (Yossi) Turner and Ari Ackerman, forthcoming with Carmel
- xii. “Eliezer Schweid: Some Premises of a Pragmatic Jewish Thinker” [in Heb.], in *The Philosophy of Eliezer Schweid: Jewish Culture and Universal Perspectives*, vol. I, ed. Yehoyada Amir and Joseph (Yossi) Turner (Jerusalem: Carmel 2020), 103-41

3.3. Academic Review Essays

- xiii. “Judaism, 'Race', and Ethics: The Problem of Racism between East and West” [in Heb.], review essay on *Judaism, Race and Ethics*, ed. Jonathan K. Crane (Penn, 2020), forthcoming in *Pe'amim*

- xiv. “How to Live Communally Amidst Doubts”, review essay on Moshe Halbertal, *The Birth of Doubt: Confronting Uncertainty in Early Rabbinic Literature* (Brown, 2020), in: *Review of Rabbinic Judaism* 24 (2021): 265-75
- xv. “Interest-based Open-Mindedness: Advocating the Role of Interests in the Formation of Human Character”, review essay on Ayalon Eidelstein, *Open-Mindedness and Faith* [in Heb.], in: *Katbarsis* 30 (2018): 146-65
- xvi. “Pragmatism: A New Name for Some Old Ways of Thinking in Judaism” [in Heb.], review essay on David Brezis, *Between Zealotry and Grace* and Hannah E. Hashkes, *Rabbinic Discourse as a System of Knowledge*, in: *DAAT* 82 (2016): 405-17

3.4. Academic Articles Under Review

- i. With Eliezer Hadad, “God is not 'The Enemy of the Body': Pragmatist Aspects in Maimonides’s Body-Mind Approach” [in Heb.]
- ii. “Chosenness, Agapeism, and the Search for Moderations between Nationhood and Universalism” [in Heb.]
- iii. “Images of 'America' between Materialism, Pragmatism, and Agapism: Implications for the Jewish-Israeli Context” [in Heb.]
- iv. “The Traditionist Turn in Jewish-Israeli Thought and its Research” [in Heb.]
- v. “*To Life*: The Phenomenon of Life in Hans Jonas’s Thought and its links to Pragmatism” [in Heb.]

4. Research in Progress

4.1. Academic Book Projects

- i. Turning my PhD dissertation into a book-form manuscript [in Heb.]
- ii. Between Pragmatic Interestedness and *Agape*: Investigations in Jewish Thought, Christianity, and Modern Philosophy (tentative name)

4.2. Academic Articles in Preparation

- i. “Pragmatism”, and “Perfection, Imperfection”, invited articles for the *Encyclopedia of the Bible and its Reception* (EBR)
- ii. “On 'Love which is not dependent on a thing' (Mishnah Avot 5:16) – Between Exegesis and Ethics” [in Heb.]
- iii. “R. Elijah Benamozegh’s Critique of Agape”

4.3. Compilation of Scientific Editions and Scientific Editing

- i. Compiled a critical edition of Nahmanides's *Sermon on Ecclesiastes (Derashat Qobelet)* as part of Prof. Oded Yisraeli's research project (yet to be published)
- ii. Compiled a critical edition of Nahmanides's *Sermon on Rosh ha-Shanah (Derashat Rosh-haShanah)* as part of Oded Yisraeli's research project (yet to be published)
- iii. Scientific editing of the Hebrew translation (by Roi Lidsky) of William James, "Reflex Action and Theism", to be published in the journal *Religia*

5. Academic Activity

5.1. "Teaching Experience"

- Fall 2020 Taught a course at the Feinberg Graduate School, Weizmann Institute of Science, on "Integrative Approaches in the Humanities"
- Spring 2020 Co-taught a course at the JTS (with Dr. Irit Offer Stark) on "Jewish Ethics and Israeli Public Policy" (JTH 5335)
- Fall 2019 Taught a course at the JTS on "Jewish Ethics and Technology" (JTH 5333)
- Fall 2018 Taught an Undergraduate Seminar, "Critical Humanist and Jewish Philosophies of Technology" (PHIL 365/JDST 221, Yale University)
- Spring 2018 Taught an Undergraduate Course, "Jewish Thought and Classical American Pragmatism" (PHIL 228/JDST 220, Yale University)
- 2014—2015 Taught two intensive academic courses at *Paideia Institute* (Stockholm, Sweden): "The Varieties of Medieval Jewish Thought" (Nov. 10-20, 2014); "Modern Jewish Thought: The Turn to the World" (Jan. 12-22, 2015)

5.2. Academic Lectures and Organization of Academic Conferences

- Fall 2022 "Pragmatism in the Hebrew Bible: New Perspectives", invited lecture to be delivered at the Institute of Jewish Studies, *University of Antwerp* (specific date TBD)
- Sept 11-12, 2022 "Why Was R. Eliezer Berkovits Concerned by Joseph Fletcher's 'Situation Ethics'? On Eros, Agape, and the Significance of the Interpersonal in Jewish Tradition" [in Heb.], to be delivered at the International Conference in Honor of the 30th Yahrzeit of Rabbi Prof. Eliezer Berkovits
- Aug 8-12, 2022 "On 'love which is not dependent upon some thing' (*Mishnah Avot* 5:16): Between Exegesis and Ethics" [in Heb.], to be delivered at the 18th *World Congress of Jewish Studies*

- “AI, Privacy Protection, and Orthopraxy in Jewish Tradition: The Biblical Trial (*nissayon*) Reconsidered”, lecture delivered at the mini-conference “Humanity’s Future: Does Jewish Thought Have Something to Say?”, organized by Hanoch Ben-Pazi and Yehudah Mirsky, as part of the 18th *WCJS*
- July 3-4, 2022 “Synagogue Judaism' as a Paradigm for Reconsidering Jewish Peoplehood”, article draft presented at the research workshop “Israel-Diaspora Relations and the Character of Israel as a Jewish State”, Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, *Ben-Gurion University of the Negev*
- May 8, 2022 “Process Theology and the Status of Scripture”, guest lecture at Dr. Tova Ganzel’s course, at the Multidisciplinary Department of Jewish Studies, *Bar-Ilan University*
- March 20, 2022 “Law, Agape, and the Relationship Between Good and Evil”, guest lecture at Dr. Adiel Zimran’s course at The Faculty of Law, *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*
- Jan 9, 2022 “The Humanities and the Principle of Sustainability: The Question Concerning the Ideational Framework Required for Advocating the Protection of Nature and Animals”, delivered at the *University of Haifa* Forum of Environment
- March 25, 2021 “A Covenantal User-Platform? Reconceptualizing the Relationship Between Tech Firms and their Subjects”, a collaborative seminar (with Tal Z. Zarsky) delivered at the research group on Jewish Law and the Ethics of Emerging AI Technologies, Institute of Jewish Law, *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*
- March 11, 2021 “Robots in the Extended Frontline: Which Robots, By Whom, and Against Whom?”, a reflection on Prof. Daniel Statman’s article “Drones and Robots: On the Changing Practice of Warfare”, delivered (online) in a seminar at the Faculty of Law, *University of Haifa*
- Dec 15, 2020 “Theological Exploration of VR Headsets: A Jonasian Perspective”, delivered (online) at the 52nd *AJS* conference
- Sep 13-14, 2020 “Pantheism, Gnosticism, and the Challenges of Religious Naturalism”, delivered (online) at the conference ‘Religious Naturalism’ by the *Kaplan Center*
- July 16, 2020 “Ethics of Technology Within the Boundaries of Mere Secularism?” [in Heb.], a talk delivered at the *Ma’avarim* inter-University Israeli research group (led by Barak Orr)
- May 13, 2019 “Jewish Traditionality and Classical American Pragmatism: Venturing Beyond the Atlantic Wall”, delivered at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies (*University of Oxford*, UK)

- April 7-8, 2019 “Anti-Gnosticism: Hans Jonas as a Jewish Pragmatist”, delivered at the workshop “Pragmatism and Jewish Thought”, *Yale University*
- March 6, 2019 “Pragmatic Holism in Eliezer Berkovits’ Theory of Halakhic Teleology” [in Heb.], seminar delivered at the Department of Jewish Thought, *Ben-Gurion University of the Negev* (Be’er Sheva)
- Feb 27, 2019 “Is Pragmatism Beneficial (or Harmful) for the Research of Jewish Thought?” [in Heb.], seminar at the School of Jewish Studies, *Tel Aviv University*
- Feb 19, 2019 In collaboration with Joseph (Yossi) Turner, “Franz Rosenzweig’s Concept of Redemption in its Cultural Context as a Conceptual Platform for Encountering 21st Century Transhumanism” [in Heb.], *Back to Redemption: Rosenzweig’s Star 1919-2019*, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute
- Dec 16-18, 2018 “A Critical Pragmatic Reading of Mishnah Avot 5:16”, *50th AJS conference* (Boston)
- Aug 16-18, 2018 — “Facing Fallibilism: Pragmatism and the Humane”, *24th World Congress of Philosophy*, Beijing (China), in a panel on American Pragmatism
- “Jewish Thought and the Challenges of Technology: Humanoid Robots, Imago Dei, and Idolatry Prohibition”, *24th World Congress of Philosophy*, in a panel on Jewish philosophy
- June 7, 2018 “Autonomous Weapon Systems, ‘The Sword Devours’ and the Problem of Moral Agency”, *Legal Challenges of Terror*, at the Minerva Center for the Rule of Law under Extreme Conditions, *University of Haifa*
- Jan 29-30, 2017 “R. Hayyim Hirschensohn and Fallibilism: A New Light on an Old Idea in Jewish Thought”, Israeli Departments of Jewish Thought Conference, *Bar-Ilan University* [video of the lecture is available online]
- Dec 19, 2016 “R. Eliezer Berkovits and the Rejection of Radical Foundationalism and Skepticism” [in Heb.], a seminar delivered at the Department of Jewish Thought, Bar-Ilan University (Ramat Gan)
- Feb 14-15, 2016 “R. Hayyim Hirschensohn and the Pragmatic Maxim”, *Conference of the Australian Association of Jewish Studies*, Griffith University (Brisbane)
- Dec 13-15, 2015 “Fallibilism: A New (Pragmatic) Name for some Old Halakhic Ways of Thinking”, *47th AJS Conference* (Boston)
- Dec 23-25, 2014 “R. Abraham Joshua Heschel’s ‘Theology of Pathos’ in Light of Eliezer Berkovits’ Critique” [in Heb.], *Abraham Joshua Heschel: Philosophy and Way of Life in Historical Perspective*, Van Leer Institute and Schechter Institute (Jerusalem) [video of the lecture is available online]

- March 2-3, 2014 “Between Yeshayahu Leibowitz’s Dichotomies and Mordecai M. Kaplan’s Pragmatic Holisms”, *Architect of the Jewish Future: A Conference on Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan*, Georgetown University (Washington, DC) [video of the lecture available online]
- Dec 23-24, 2013 “R. Ḥayyim Hirschensohn’s Beliefs about Death and Immortality as Tested by his Halakhic Decision Making” [in Heb.], *Death and the Philosophy of Halakbah*, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute

5.3. Organizing Conferences and Relevant Academic Activity

- Winter 2022 Organized a public seminar series on “Encounters Between East and West: Traditionalism (*Masorti’yut*) from an Ideational Perspective”, to be held monthly at the Ben-Zvi Institute on spring 2022
- 2021-2022 Organized a panel to the 18th *World Congress of Jewish Studies* on “Love in Early Jewish Tradition: Exegetical and Ethical Perspectives”
- 2020-2021 Organized with Benny Porat of a research group (convened online) on Jewish Law and the Ethics of Emerging AI Technologies, Institute of Jewish Law, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
— Coordinated a research group on the concept of Tradition, at the *Ben-Zvi Institute*, Jerusalem; a member of the steering committee of the “Jerusalem Conference of Traditionism” (which took place at *BZI* in October 5-7, 2021)
- April 7-8, 2019 Organized with Paul Franks the International Workshop “Pragmatism and Jewish Thought”, Yale University
- 2017—2019 Organized the monthly ‘Faculty Lunch Group’ forum at the Department of Philosophy, Yale University
- 2017 Organized a panel at the 17th *World Congress of Jewish Studies* on “Jewish Thought and American Pragmatism”
- 2013-2015 Associate convener, “Bikurei meḥkar” Conference in the years 2013, 2014, and 2015, at the Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, The Hebrew University
- 2014 Assisted Prof. Gershon Greenberg in preparing the courses “Jewish Thought in the 19th Century”; “Jewish Religious Thought in the Holocaust”
- 2013 Associate convener, Conference of Graduate Students (6.6.2013), Department of Jewish Thought, The Hebrew University
- 2013 Translated into the Hebrew (with Avinoam Rosenak) the book by Michael Rosenak, *Tree of Life, Tree of Knowledge: Conversations with the Torah* (Oxford:

	Westview 2001). The book appeared in Hebrew as עץ החיים ועץ הדעת: שיחות עם התורה by Yediot Books (Tel Aviv 2014)
2012—2013	Head of the research group “Belief, Certainty, and Skepticism”, Mandel Institute of Jewish Studies, The Hebrew University
2010—2011	Research assistant to the “Religious Spiritual Leadership” roundtable, Mandel Leadership Institute, Jerusalem

6. General Publications

6.1. Essays

- i. “What’s Between the Environmental Crisis and the Age of Data?” [in Heb.], *De’ot* 100 (2022), 34-37
- ii. “On the Significance of Public Legitimacy for Exercising Personal Moral Discretion” [in Heb.], *The Times of Israel* (Oct 14, 2020)
- iii. “Israel’s Two Messiahs”, *Tablet Magazine* (April 28, 2020)
- iv. “Towards a More Humane Humanities” [in Heb.], *Alaxon* (Dec. 29, 2019, available online)
- v. “Synagogue Judaism or Temple Religion?” [in Heb.], *De’ot* 88 (2019), 33-40
- vi. With Mordechai Kremnitzer, “Criticizing the Israeli Army is a Jewish Obligation” [in Heb.], *Haaretz* (Oct 5, 2018)
- vii. “Democratic Jewish State: Between Religious and Socio-Economic Dimensions” [in Heb.], *De’ot* 73 (Jan 2016), 41-46

6.2. Book Reviews

- i. “Overcoming Death’ as Defeating Humanity”, review of Yuval Noah Harari, “The History of Tomorrow” [in Heb.], *Dvarim Ahadim* 30 (June 2015), The Hartman Institute of Jerusalem
- ii. Review of Meir Roth, “Orthodox Judaism – The Human Dimension: The Halakhic Philosophy of Rabbi Prof. Eliezer Berkovits” [in Heb.], *Makor Rishon*, Musaf Shabbat (Jan 10, 2014)
- iii. “Traditionality: A Threat or a Challenge? Review of Meir Buzaglo, *A Language for the Faithful*” [in Heb.], *De’ot* 44 (Oct 2009), 38-40

7. Professional Service & Membership in Professional Associations

7.1. Professional Service

Peer-reviewed a book on Jewish thought for *Palgrave*; peer-reviewed articles in Jewish thought for *Modern Judaism*, *Journal of Textual Reasoning*, *Pe’amim*, and *Australian Journal of Jewish Studies*

7.2. Membership in Professional Associations

Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), World Union of Jewish Studies, Society of Jewish Ethics

8. Language Skills

Hebrew (mother tongue), English (high level), Aramaic (good level), German (basic level); Musical notes reading and advanced musical relative pitch